

***REMARKS/ARGUMENTS***

In response to the Office Action mailed September 6, 2007, Applicants propose to amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the proposed amendments and following remarks. In this Amendment, it is proposed to cancel claim 3 so that upon entry of this Amendment claims 1, 4-7, and 9-16 will remain pending.

Claims 14-16 are allowed.

In this Amendment claims 3 and 7 are rewritten in independent form as amended claims 1 and 7, respectively. Since claims 3, 7, and 9-13 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, amended claims 3, 7, and 9-13 are now in form for allowance. Therefore, there is no further comment on those claims nor on the rejection of examined claim 1.

Claims 5 and 6 were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Those claims depend from claim 4. That claim 4 is proposed to be amended for clarity.

In this Amendment, the former third paragraph of claim 4 is moved to become part of the final paragraph of claim 4. The words in that paragraph following the word "impeller" are added as a clarifying amendment. The added words are almost entirely copied from the next-to-last paragraph of claim 4. These added words explain that the part of each tip of each blade, which is disposed directly opposite the bell mouth and which extends beyond the opening of the bell mouth, along a direction parallel to the axis of the impeller, toward the bell mouth, is at a part of the impeller that is larger in outer diameter than the inner diameter of the opening of the bell mouth. By way of further explanation, referring to Figures 4, 9, 10, 13, 14, and 16, of the patent application, it can be seen that the tip of each blade 4 or 40, which is located at the outer diameter of the impeller is "underneath" the bell mouth. In other words, because the outer diameter of the impeller, D4 in some depicted embodiments, is larger than

the inner diameter of the bell mouth, D1', in some figures, those tips of the blades are located rearward, with respect to the direction of airflow through the bell mouth, of the opening of the bell mouth as defined by the inner diameter. This arrangement was always explained in claim 4 but may not have been given proper attention. For that reason, it is proposed to amend claim 4 for clarity.

Claim 4 was rejected as anticipated by Kinoshita (JP 2002-22210). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

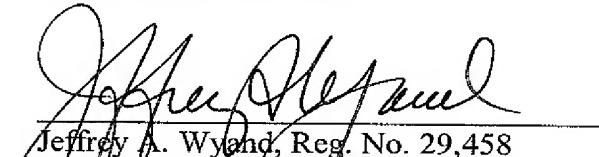
In rejecting claim 4, attention was directed to Figure 2 of Kinoshita. That figure shows a blower structure including an impeller 6. The blower includes a bell mouth. The impeller 6 including its blades 8 is situated entirely within the inner opening of the bell mouth. The outer diameter of the impeller and the edges of the blades adjacent the location of the maximum outer diameter of the impeller appear to have a very small clearance with respect to the inner opening of the bell mouth. It is apparent by inspecting the figure that no part of the blades 8 of the impeller 6 is behind or underneath the tips of the inner opening of the bell mouth.

While it is true that the smallest inner diameter of the opening of the bell mouth is smaller than the maximum outer diameter of the impeller, Kinoshita fails to meet the remainder of the description of the final paragraph of claim 4. That description requires that the part of each tip of each blade that is disposed directly opposite the bell mouth, and extends beyond the opening of the bell mouth along a direction parallel to the rotational axis of the impeller, toward the bell mouth, is larger than the inner diameter of the opening of the bell mouth. That requirement is not met by Kinoshita because the inner diameter of the opening of the bell mouth in Kinoshita is not located at the tip of the blade but a midpoint of the blade. This relationship is a result of the placement of the entire edge of each blade inside the opening of the bell mouth, unlike the invention, in which the tip of each blade is outside the opening of the bell mouth and behind the bell mouth, as expressly described in the next-to-last paragraph of claim 4. Accordingly, Kinoshita cannot meet the description of amended

claim 4 and cannot anticipate that claim. Therefore, upon reconsideration, the rejection of claim 4 should be withdrawn.

Entry of the foregoing Amendment and allowance of all claims now presented are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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